

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USNATO 06628 051712Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ACDA-10 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-03
DODE-00 SAA-01 L-01 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NEA-07 IO-06 ICAE-00 SSO-00 /058 W
-----022696 051719Z /46

O 051701Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2683
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY MADRID
ALL NATO CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA
USNMR SHAPE BE

S E C R E T USNATO 06628

LIMDIS

USSALTTWO

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, NAC, XF
SUBJECT: PROPOSED NATO CONSULTATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

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REFS: (A) USNATO 6015 (DTG 141343Z JUN 78),
(B) USNATO 6451 (DTG 281610Z JUN 75),
(C) STATE 167449 (DTG 010018Z JUL 78) (NOTAL)

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1. AS REFLECTED IN OUR REPORTS OF THE JUNE 14 AND 28 NATO
PERMREPS LUNCHES (REFS A AND B), NATO PERMREPS HOPE A
COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST WITH EXPERTS FROM
CAPITALS CAN BE ARRANGED AT NATO PRIOR TO THE TRADITIONAL
EUROPEAN AUGUST HOLIDAY PERIOD. THE QUESTION AROSE AGAIN

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PAGE 02 USNATO 06628 051712Z

AT THE JULY 4 LUNCH, WITH THURSDAY, JULY 20 LOOKED TO AS
THE BEST DATE. ALL RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TIMING OF
ANY CONSULTATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE AFFECTED BY
THE PROPOSED LONDON MEETING. PERMREPS MADE CLEAR THEY WOULD
WELCOME AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S PARTICIPATION SHOULD HE BE
ABLE TO ATTEND.

2. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: WE HAVE SENSED A GROWING SENTIMENT HERE AT ALL LEVELS THAT A MIDDLE EAST CONSULTATION SIMILAR TO THE ONE AMBASSADOR ATHERTON ATTENDED IN MARCH 1977 COULD PROVIDE A USEFUL MEANS OF BRINGING ALLIANCE CAPITALS UP TO DATE ON THE STATE OF PLAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND US THINKING ABOUT THE ROAD AHEAD. THE STRENGTH OF THIS SENTIMENT LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT A NUMBER OF THE ALLIES FEEL THEY ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING THE THREAD OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS AND COULD PRODUCTIVELY BE REASSURED ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF US EFFORTS. IN OUR VIEW, A CONSULTATION THIS MONTH WOULD PAY DIVIDENDS, PARTICULARLY IF IT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED THE LONDON MEETING.

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AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE WOULD WELCOME WORD AS TO WHETHER WE CAN PARTICIPATE IN A CONSULTATION ON THE 20TH, WHAT OTHER DATES BEFORE THE AUGUST VACATION PERIOD MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE US, AND WHO MIGHT COME FROM WASHINGTON. THE 19TH, INCIDENTALLY, IS NOT A GOOD ALTERNATIVE BECAUSE OF A US-SCHEDULED CONSULTATION ON SALT (REF C) BENNETT

SECRET

NNN

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